

Vermont's congressional delegation – Sens. Patrick Leahy and Bernie Sanders and Rep. Peter Welch – today announced a disaster declaration that will bring federal assistance to counties affected by this spring's flooding that were until now ineligible for such assistance.

The declaration – issued today by President Obama – will make public assistance available for damages sustained as a result of the storm on May 20<sup>th</sup> in Franklin, Washington and Windham counties. Previously, the disaster declaration only covered damages sustained on May 26

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“This spring's flooding combined with the unprecedented damage caused by Tropical Storm Irene have seriously strained the state's resources,” Vermont's delegation said in a statement. “As we continue fighting to ensure Vermont gets every dollar it needs to recover from these storms, this is welcome news and a step in the right direction.”

In September, Leahy, Sanders and Welch wrote to FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate asking that the dates be amended. To see the letter, [CLICK HERE](#) .